

**REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are currently under consideration. Claim 7 has been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

**Election of Species**

Applicants affirm that election was made by telephone electing species 1 including claims 1-6 shown in FIGS. 1-10. Species 2 shown in FIGS. 11-16 and including claim 7 has been withdrawn from consideration.

**Objection to Specification**

The Examiner objected to the term "faucet part" used throughout the specification. Applicants have now replaced this term in the specification and the claims and referred to it as "an inner carton." It is believed that this terminology is now suitable.

**Claim Objections**

The Examiner objected to claim 1 due to the grammatical form "open/close." By way of the present amendment, this is now being changed to a suitable expression. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claim 4, the Examiner pointed out the objectionable phrase utilizing a “such as”. By way of this amendment, this language has been removed.

With regard to claim 5 and 6, the Examiner questions whether the description of detergent stored in the container is included in the invention. By way of the present amendment, this phrase has been changed in each claim to a functional “for storing” phrase. Accordingly, it is clear now that the detergent is not included in the invention.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Graybill (U.S. Patent 2,872,097). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that the Graybill reference describes a hexahedral container 20 with a lid P and hinge 10. The front board includes a concave cut out 6N. Applicants further note that this container is made from a single sheet rather than having a separate inner liner.

By way of the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 which has been canceled. Claim 1 includes additional limitations as well. Accordingly, claim 1 now describes a paper container having a

combination of elements including a container main body and a lid hingedly attached thereto, and an inner carton part with a concave cutout part in its front board, the lid having a front surface large enough to cover the concave cutout part, the main body and a lid being formed by cutting and dividing the box using a severance guide line with the guide line running obliquely on the side boards and extending along the front board beneath the concave cutout part.

Applicants submit that the Graybill reference does not show the combination of elements defined by claim 1. In particular, this reference does not show a separate inner carton since all of its parts are formed from a single sheet. Also, this reference does not show a concave cutout part in a front board of said inner carton described in the claim. For these reasons, Applicants submit that the combination of elements defined by claim 1 is not seen by the Graybill reference. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, each of these claims recites additional features of the combination of elements. Accordingly, these claims are additionally allowable.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Graybill in view of Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 5,985,772). Claim 6 stands rejected as

being obvious over Graybill in view of Giblin et al. (U.S. Patent 6,320,279). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that these claims are allowable based on dependency from claim 1. Furthermore, even if it would be obvious to combine these secondary references with the Graybill reference, Applicants submit that claim 1 and the claims which depend therefrom still remain allowable. Accordingly, these rejections are also considered to be overcome.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

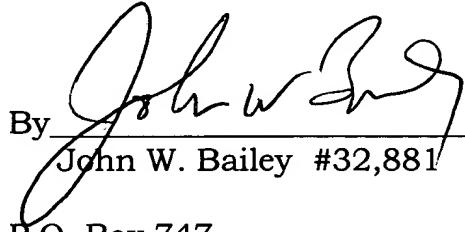
Appl. No. 09/846,459  
Response filed December 23, 2002

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment

(Rev. 11/28/01)

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Specification:**

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 13, has been amended as follows:

--Also, the present invention has achieved the above objects by providing a paper container, wherein [a faucet part] **an inner carton** is mounted on an inner side of the container main body and the concave cutout part is formed in a front board of the [faucet part] **inner carton**, the container main body and lid member are formed by cutting and dividing the hexahedral paper box through a severance guide line extending from opposite ends of a connecting ridge line between an upper board and a back board of the paper box, and the severance guide line extends obliquely downward from the opposite ends of the connecting ridge line along a pair of side boards and extends along the front board beneath the concave cutout part formed in the front board of the [faucet part] **inner carton**.--

The paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13, has been amended as follows:

--Besides, the present invention has achieved the above objects by providing a paper container, which stores a sheet-like detergent which is packaged with a water-soluble sheet and stacked up in layers, and wherein the paper container includes [a faucet part] **an inner cart n** which is inserted into the container main body along an inner surface thereof, an inner surface of the lid member in a closed

position overlies the [faucet part] inner cart n, and the container main body, the [faucet part] inner carton and lid member are formed of a moisture-proof material.--

The paragraph beginning on page 6, line 11, has been amended as follows:

--In the paper container of the present invention, at the time of storing the sheet-like detergent packaged with a water-soluble sheet in layers, if there is a provision of [a faucet part] an inner carton which is inserted along the inner surface of the container main body, the inner surface of the lid member in the closed position overlies the [faucet] inner carton and if the container main body, the [faucet part] inner carton and the lid member are formed of a moisture-preventive material, the moisture-preventive property and water-drop entry preventive property of the container can be improved and the sheet-like detergent packaged with a water-soluble sheet can be prevented from sticking to each other.--

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 21, has been amended as follows:

--The container main body 12 is a rectangular parallelepiped box body whose upper end surface is opened as the upper end open surface 13. According to the first embodiment, the container main body 12 has, as shown in FIG. 2, a rectangular parallelepiped [faucet part] inn r carton 21 mounted on an inner side

of an outer jacket 20 which constitutes the container main body 12. Thus, the container main body 12 is of a dual construction. An upper half part of the front board 22 of the [faucet part] **inner carton** 21 and upper half parts of the pair of side boards 23 are exposed upward of the outer jacket 20, and therefore, form the front board 15 and the side boards 25, together with the outer jacket 20 (see FIG. 1).--

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 29, has been amended as follows:

--According to the first embodiment, the exposed front board 22 of the [faucet part] **inner carton** 21 constituting the front board 15 of the container main body 12 is formed within its region of a lateral length of 100 mm and a height of 60 mm with the concave cutout part 16 extending from the upper end open surface 13 of the container main body 12 such that a lower end edge part of the concave cutout part 16 is curved. By cutting 24 opposite sides of a central part of the curved lower end edge part of the concave cutout part 16, a tongue-like lock part 26 is formed on the central part of the concave cutout part 16. A lower end part of the front lid part 18 of the lid member 14, which is described later, is engaged with this tongue-like lock part 26 when the lid member 14 of the container main body 10 is closed (see FIG. 3).--

The paragraph beginning on page 9, line 29, has been amended as follows:

--According to the first embodiment, the outer jacket 20 and the lid member 14, which constitute the container main body 12, are, as shown in FIG. 4, formed by cutting and dividing the hexahedral paper box 29 through a cutting belt 33 extending from opposite ends of a connecting ridge line 32 between the upper board 30 and the back board 31 of the paper box 29. The cutting belt 33 is formed by being sandwiched between one pair of upper and lower perforations 34, 35 as severance guide lines. By tearing up the cutting belt 33 along the perforations 34, 35, the paper box 29 is divided into the outer jacket 20 and the lid member 14 which are hingedly connected to each other by serving the connecting ridge line 32 as the crease line 28. The upwardly located perforations 34 extend obliquely downward from the opposite ends of the connecting ridge line 32 along the pair of side boards 36 of the paper box 29 and extend along the front board 37 of the paper box 29 beneath the concave cutout part 16 formed in the front board 22 of the [faucet part] **inner carton** 21. The lid member 14 formed by this comprises the upper lid part 17, the front lid part 18 and the pair of side lid parts 19 as previously mentioned.--

The paragraph beginning on page 10, line 11, has been amended as follows:

--According to the first embodiment, the paper container 10 is distributed and sold as a product in which the sheet-like detergent 11 stacked up in layers

and the [faucet] **inner carton** 21 are disposed within the paper box 29. At the time of use of the sheet-like detergent 11, the cutting belt 33 is torn up so that the paper box 29 is divided into the outer jacket 20 and the lid member 14 so that the lid member 14 is readily opened/closed. In that state, the lid member 14 is opened to take out the sheet-like detergent 11.--

The paragraph beginning on page 11, line 13, has been amended as follows:

--FIG. 5 shows a paper container 50 according to a second embodiment of the present invention. In this paper container 50, a container main body 51 is of a single structure in which no [faucet] **inner carton** is employed. A lid member 53 is hingedly attached to a back side edge part of an upper open surface 51, the container main body 51 is formed at a front board 54 thereof with a concave cutout part 55, and a tongue-like lock part 56 is disposed at a lower end edge part of the front board 54. This paper container 50 is distributed and sold in a state that the upper end open surface 51 and the concave cutout part 55 are covered with the lid member 53 and a peripheral edge part of the lid member 53 is bonded to the container main body 51. The sheet-like detergent 11 is taken out by releasing the bonding state so that the lid member 53 is readily opened/closed. The same operation and effect as in the paper container 10 of the first embodiment can also be obtained by this paper container 50.--

The paragraph beginning on page 16, line 14, has been amended as follows:

--The paper container 60 according to a preferred fourth embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, includes an outer box 63 comprising a container main body 61 and a lid member 62, [a faucet part] **an inner carton** 64 inserted along an inner surface of the container main body 61, and a detergent ooze-preventive bottom board 65 (FIG. 5) which is laid on a bottom part of the container main body 61 and [faucet part] **inner carton** 64. The paper container 60 contains, for example, 30 sheets of plate-like detergent 66 stacked up in the form of layers.--

The paragraph beginning on page 17, line 25, has been amended as follows:

--The [faucet] **inner carton** 64 is composed of a moisture-proof cardboard, for example, a raw material 64A which is formed by sticking a polypropylene film to an inner surface of a cardboard (coated board). The [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 comprises a square sleeve-like wraparound body 75 and a hole-made bottom part 76 connected to a lower end of the body 75. The [faucet] **inner carton** 64 is inserted along the inner surface of the container main body 61. An upper part of the wraparound body 75 is partly raised from the open end edge of the container main body 61, and the inner surface of the lid member 62 in the closed position is overlaid to provide a close fit. The [faucet] **inner carton** 64 is provided at a front surface thereof with a concave cutout part 77. In the fourth embodiment, the

[faucet part] **inner cart n** 64 is abutted at its bottom part 76 with the bottom part of the container main body 61 and fixedly secured to the inner surface of the container main body 61 through an adhesive agent. However, the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 is not necessarily provided with the bottom part 76. It may be provided with a non-perforated bottom part.--

The paragraph beginning on page 18, line 6, has been amended as follows:

--The [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 includes a lid insertion part 78 which can lock the edge of the lid member 62 when the lid member 62 is closed again after it is opened. In the fourth embodiment, a tongue piece sandwiched between two streaks of cutout line 78A, 78A formed in the edge which define the concave cutout part 77 at the front surface of the [faucet] **inner carton** 64 serves as the lid insertion part 78.--

The paragraph beginning on page 18, line 11, has been amended as follows:

--The bottom board 65 is in the form of a flat board and composed of a moisture-proof cardboard, for example, a raw material which is formed by sticking a polypropylene film to an inner surface of a cardboard (coated board) as in the case with the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64.--

The paragraph beginning on page 18, line 14, has been amended as follows:

--Accordingly, the sequential procedure for manufacturing the paper container 60 is as follows. As shown in FIG. 8, before gluing of the ceiling formation part 71 of the raw material 63A which constitutes the outer box 63, this ceiling formation part 71 is opened and the [faucet] **inner carton** 64 is inserted into the inside of the outer box 63 and bonded to the inner surface of the container main body 61. Then, the bottom board 65 is inserted into the inside of the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 and bonded to the bottom surface of the [faucet] **inner carton** 64. Subsequently, a plate-like detergent 66 is loaded to the inside of the outer box 63 and [faucet part] **inner carton** 64, and then, the ceiling formation part 71 of the outer box 63 is glued. It is also accepted that a sub-assembly in which the bottom board 65 and the plate-like detergent 66 are preliminarily stored within the faucet part 64 is inserted into the inside of the outer box 63.--

The paragraph beginning on page 18, line 24, has been amended as follows:

--The sequential procedure for using the paper container 60 is as follows. The easy cut part 67 of the outer box 63 is cut and the lid member 62 is opened relative to the container main body 61. An outer edge part of the plate-like detergent 66 facing the concave cutout part 77 of the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 is handled to take out the plate-like detergent 66 from the outer box 63. The

plate-like detergent 66 is packaged, for example, with a water-soluble film and therefore, it can be thrown into a washing machine as it is and without soiling the user's hand.--

The paragraph beginning on page 19, line 7, has been amended as follows:

--(2) The [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 raised from the open edge of the container main body 61 is provided with the concave cutout parts 34, when the plate-like detergent 66 is stored in a storage part which is defined by the container main body 61 and [faucet part] **inner carton** 64. And the storage part is open not only at the ceiling side but also at the front board. Therefore, the outer edge parts of the plate-like detergents 66 vertically stacked up in the storage part in the form of layers are faced with the concave cutout part 77. This makes it possible for the user to pick up the outer edge part of the plate-like detergent 66 and take out the detergent 66 easily.--

The paragraph beginning on page 19, line 15, has been amended as follows:

--(3) When the paper container 60 is closed, the lid part 62 is engaged over the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 raised from the open edge part of the container main body 61 so that entry of moisture into the paper container 60 is prevented. Thus, the plate-like detergent 66 can be prevented from absorbing moisture.--

The paragraph beginning on page 19, line 19, has been amended as follows:

--(4) The edge of the lid member 62 can be engaged with the lid insertion part 78 of the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 at the time of closing the lid again. Accordingly, the lid member 62 can surely be closed again and the plate-like detergent 66 can be prevented from absorbing moisture.

The paragraph beginning on page 19, line 27, has been amended as follows:

--(6) The easy cut part 67 of the outer box 63 is in the form of perforations, half-cut line, or the like, and therefore, moisture is easy to enter. However, entry of moisture is prevented by the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 which is located at an inner side of the easy cut part 67. Thus, the plate-like detergent 66 is prevented from absorbing moisture.--

The paragraph beginning on page 20, line 18, has been amended as follows:

--The sequential procedure for using the paper container 60 of the fourth embodiment in which the sheet-like detergent 79 is stored, is as follows. The easy cut part 67 of the outer box 63 is cut and the lid member 62 is opened relative to the container main body 61. An outer edge part of the sheet-like detergent 66 facing the concave cutout part 77 of the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 is handled to take out the sheet-like detergent 79 from the outer box 63. The sheet-like detergent 79 is packaged, for example, with a water-soluble film and therefore, it

can be thrown into a washing machine as it is and without soiling the user's hand.--

The paragraph beginning on page 20, line 27, has been amended as follows:

--(1) When the paper container 60 is closed, the lid member 62 is engaged over the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 raised from the open edge part of the container main body 61 and the member container main body 61, the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 and the lid member 62 are composed of a moisture proof material, so that entry of moisture and water drop into the box is prevented. Thus, the sheet-like detergents 79 can be prevented from sticking to each other by avoiding dissolving of the water-soluble sheet caused by moisture absorption and adhesion of water drop.--

The paragraph beginning on page 21, line 11, has been amended as follows:

--(3) The easy cut part 67 is in the form of perforations, half-cut line, or the like, and therefore, moisture is easy to enter. However, entry of moisture is prevented by the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 which is located at an inner side of the easy cut part 67. Thus, the sheet-like detergents 66 are prevented from sticking to each other.--

The paragraph beginning on page 21, line 15, has been amended as follows:

--(4) The [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 raised from the open edge part of the container main body 61 is provided with the concave cutout part 77, when the sheet-like detergent 79 is stored in a storage part which is defined by the container main body 61 and [faucet part] **inner carton** 64. And the storage part is open not only at the ceiling side but also sideways. Therefore, the outer edge parts of the sheet-like detergents 79 vertically stacked up in the storage part in the form of layers are faced with the concave cutout part 77. This makes it possible for the user to pick up the outer edge part of the sheet-like detergent 79 and take out the detergent 79 easily.--

The paragraph beginning on page 21, line 23, has been amended as follows:

--(5) The edge of the lid member 62 can be engaged with the lid insertion part 78 of the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 at the time of closing the lid again. Accordingly, the lid member 62 can surely be closed again and the sheet-like detergents 79 can be prevented from sticking to each other.--

The paragraph beginning on page 23, line 18, has been amended as follows:

--The bottom surface part 81 of the outer box 63 into which the [faucet] **inner carton** 64 is inserted is constituted by folding the two inner flaps 86, one intermediate flap 87 and one outer flap 88 extending from a lower side of each

side board 80A surrounding the lower opening of the body part 80 in this order and bonding them together.--

The paragraph beginning on page 23, line 25, has been amended as follows:

--In the fourth embodiment, the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 inserted into the outer flap 63 is bonded to the inner surface of the inner flap 86. That area of the inner flap 86 which corresponds to the cutout part 87A of the intermediate flap 87 is also provided with the punched-out hole-like cutout part 86A.--

The paragraph beginning on page 24, line 19, has been amended as follows:

--(3) The [faucet] **inner carton** 64 is inserted into the outer box 63 and folded on the inner surface of the inner flap 86 in item (2) mentioned above. The [faucet] **inner carton** 64 is bonded to the outer flap 88 through the adhesive agent C supplied to the two cutout parts 86A, 87A of the inner flap 86 and the intermediate flap 87 (FIGS. 16(A) and 16(B)).--

The paragraph beginning on page 25, line 5, has been amended as follows:

--(2) After the outer flap 88 is bonded to the intermediate flap 87 and the inner flap 86 by the above-mentioned item (1), the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 is inserted into the outer box 63. By doing so, the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 is

bonded to the outer flap 88 through the adhesive agent C supplied to the two cutout parts 86A, 87A of the inner flap 86 and the intermediate flap 87. Accordingly, by a single adhesive agent applying process, not only the inner flap 86, the intermediate flap 87 and the outer flap 88 can simultaneously be bonded together but also the [faucet part] **inner carton** 64 can be bonded.--

The paragraph beginning on page 25, line 25, has been amended as follows:

--The composite raw materials for the container main body, the lid member and the [faucet part] **inner carton**, the plastic film may be sandwiched between the cardboard sheets or it may be bonded to the inner surface or outer surface of the cardboard. The [faucet part] **inner carton** and the bottom board are not necessarily limited to paper but they may be plastics or the like. In addition, it is also accepted that the container main body is not allow the insertion of the [faucet part] **inner carton** and that the container main body is provided at its front board with a concave cutout part.--

**In the Claims:**

Claim 2 has been canceled

Claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A paper container having a hexahedral configuration which is formed by shaping paper into a box, said paper container comprising:

a container main body and a lid member hingedly attached to a back side edge part of an upper end open surface of said container main body [and adapted to open/close] **for selectively closing** the upper end open surface,

[a front board] **an inner carton part being mounted on an inner side** of said container main body [being formed with] **and** a concave cutout part [extending from said upper end open surface] **being formed in a front board of said inner carton part**, and

said lid member comprising an upper surface lid part for covering said upper end open surface, a front surface lid part large enough to cover said concave cutout part, and a pair of side lid parts interposed between side edge parts of said upper surface lid part and side edge parts of said front surface lid part and adapted to vertically join said front surface lid part with said upper surface lid part[.],

**said container main body and lid member being formed by cutting and dividing said hexahedral paper box through a severance guide line extending from opposite ends of a connecting ridge line between an upper board and a back board of said paper box, and**

**said severance guide line extending obliquely downward from the opposite ends of said connecting ridge line along a pair of side boards and extending along said front board beneath said concave cutout part formed in the front board of said inner carton.**

4. (Amended) A paper container according to claim 1, which stores an oil containing-content [such as detergent and foodstuff],

in which said paper is formed of a paper base material, a printed layer covering an outer surface of said paper base material, an outer colored film covering an outer surface of said printed layer, and an inner film covering an inner surface of said paper base material.

5. (Amended) A paper container according to claim 1, [which stores] for storing a packaged detergent.

6. (Amended) A paper container according to claim 1, [which stores] for storing a sheet-like detergent which is packaged with a water-soluble sheet and stacked up in layers, and

wherein [said paper container includes a faucet part which is inserted into said container main body along an inner surface thereof,] an inner surface of said lid member in a closed position overlies said [faucet] inner carton part, and said container main body, said [faucet] inner carton part and lid member are formed of a moisture-proof material.